

is adjacent to any data track, including after the last data track or prior to any other data track. The pregap or gap is determined to have sufficient area or time for accepting a concealed data track. The data track to be concealed is impressed within the pregap or gap on the storage medium for generating a concealed track with concealed data. The operator of the player determines whether to access concealed data or normal track data. If normal track data is accessed, the player is played normally and the concealed data is undetectable. If the operator of the player elects to access concealed data, the directory information, per the instructions provided by the operator of the player, identifies the index or start position for the appropriate concealed data. The concealed data is accessed by the player for transcription to another medium or for playback.

FIG. 16 is a schematic illustrating more particularly a concealed track disposed within a pre-gap G_p as practiced by the present invention. FIG. 16 illustrates a data track 204 having a pre-gap G_p . The data track 204 has a recording area 214 and a start position 224. The concealed track C202 comprises a recording area C212 and a start position C222. The pre-gap G_p includes the entirety of the concealed track C202 and its adjacent gaps. It can be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the gaps associated with the concealed track C202 can be of whatever dimensions are desired with respect to time or location. Also, it can be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the gaps can be displaced or omitted altogether such that the data track 204 abuts against the concealed track C202, thus, providing an embodiment without any gaps.

Additional advantages and modification will readily occur to those skilled in the art. The invention in its broader aspects is therefore not limited to the specific details, representative apparatus, and the illustrative examples shown and described herein. Accordingly, the departures may be made from the details without departing from the spirit or scope of the disclosed general inventive concept.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of masking data on a DVD for selective playback upon demand or for transcription to another medium,

the DVD adapted for communication with a player or transcriber such that the DVD has a start location and a stop location with at least one data track therebetween,

each data track including a data recording area for executing at least one of recording and reproducing the data, and each track including a start position indicative of a beginning location for the data recording area for that track, the start location precedes the first start position for the first track for at least one of location or time, and the stop location follows the last data recording area for the last track for at least one of location or time,

the first start position is indicative of the beginning of the data recording area for a first track and the start position for each subsequent track, if any, is indicative of the beginning of the data recording area for the respective track,

the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) determining the position of the start location,
- (b) determining the position of the stop location,
- (c) positioning at least one data track on the DVD between the start location and the stop location such that the data track has, adjacent thereto, at least one of sufficient location or time for accepting a concealed data track, which sufficient location or time is defined as a gap,

(d) impressing data on the DVD and within the gap for defining the concealed track having a hidden recording area such that the hidden recording area is located adjacent any data track and contains concealed data which can be accessed upon demand for transcription to another medium or for playback.

2. The method of masking data on a DVD for selective playback upon demand or for transcription to another medium as defined in claim 1 wherein the step of impressing data on the storage medium for generating the concealed data track further comprises the step of generating the concealed data track comprising the steps of:

(a) identifying a position within the gap relative to at least one of location or time for operative association with a player/transcriber,

(b) impressing the concealed data track on the storage medium at the identified position comprising the steps of:

- (1) impressing a recording area within the concealed data track, and
- (2) impressing a start position within the concealed data track for indicating the location where the recording area begins for the concealed track.

3. The method of masking data on a DVD for selective playback upon demand or for transcription to another medium as defined in claim 2 wherein the step of identifying a position within the gap comprises the step of identifying a position within the gap and with respect to the start location.

4. The method of masking data on a DVD for selective playback upon demand or for transcription to another medium as defined in claim 2 wherein the step of identifying a position within the gap comprises the step of identifying a position within the gap and with respect to the start position of any track.

5. The method of masking data on a DVD for selective playback upon demand or for transcription to another medium as defined in claim 3 wherein the step of identifying a position within the gap and with respect to the start location comprises the step of identifying a position before the start location which position defines a pre-gap.

6. The method of masking data on a DVD for selective playback upon demand or for transcription to another medium as defined in claim 5 wherein the step of identifying a position before the start location comprises the step of identifying a portion of the pre-gap.

7. The method of masking data on a DVD for selective playback upon demand or for transcription to another medium as defined in claim 5 wherein the step of identifying a position before the start location comprises the step of identifying all of the pre-gap.

8. The method of masking data on a DVD for selective playback upon demand or for transcription to another medium as defined in claim 3 wherein the step of identifying a position within the gap and with respect to the start location comprises the step of identifying a position after the start location.

9. The method of masking data on a DVD for selective playback upon demand or for transcription to another medium as defined in claim 4 wherein the step of identifying a position within the gap and with respect to the start position of any track comprises the step of identifying a position before the start position of the track.

10. The method of masking data on a DVD for selective playback upon demand or for transcription to another medium as defined in claim 4 wherein the step of identifying a position within the gap and with respect to the start position comprises the step of identifying a position after the start position of any track.

11. A method of masking data on a DVD for selective playback upon demand or for transcription to another medium,

the DVD adapted for communication with a player or transcriber such that the DVD has a start location and a stop location with at least one data track therebetween, prior to the start location is a pregap, each data track including a data recording area for executing at least one of recording and reproducing the data, and each track including a start position indicative of a beginning location for the data recording area for that track, the start location precedes the first start position for the first track for at least one of location or time, and the stop location follows the last data recording area for the last track for at least one of location or time, the first start position is indicative of the beginning of the data recording area for a first track and the start position for each subsequent track, if any, is indicative of the beginning of the data recording area for the respective track,

the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) determining the position of the start location,
- (b) determining the position of the stop location,
- (c) positioning at least one data track on the DVD between the start location and the stop location,
- (d) identifying the pre-gap before the start location, and
- (e) impressing data on the DVD and within the pre-gap for generating the concealed track having a hidden recording area for containing concealed data which can be accessed upon demand for transcription to another medium or for playback.

12. The method of masking data on a DVD for selective playback upon demand or for transcription to another medium as defined in claim 11 wherein the step of impressing data on the DVD and within the pre-gap for generating the concealed track further comprises the step of generating the concealed data track comprising the steps of:

- (a) identifying a position within the pregap relative to at least one of location or time for operative association with a player/transcriber, and
- (b) impressing the concealed data track on the DVD at the identified position comprising the steps of:
 - (1) impressing a recording area within the concealed data track, and
 - (2) impressing a start position within the concealed data track for indicating the location where the recording area begins for the concealed track.

13. A DVD containing data for selective playback upon demand or for transcription to another medium and for communication with a player or transcriber, the DVD comprising:

- (a) a start location,
- (b) a stop location,
- (c) at least one data track between the start location and the stop location,

each data track further comprising a data recording area for executing at least one of recording and reproducing the data, and each track including a start position indicative of a beginning location for the data recording area for that track, the start location precedes the first start position for the first track for at least one of location or time, and the stop location follows the last data recording area for the last track for at least one of location or time, the first start position is indicative of the beginning of the data recording area for a first track and the start position for each subsequent track, if any, is indicative of the beginning of the data recording area for the respective track, such that at least one data track is on the article between the start location and the stop location, and

- (d) a pre-gap, prior to the start location, the pregap comprising data impressed on the DVD and within the pregap for defining a concealed track having a hidden recording area for containing concealed data which can be accessed upon demand by the player or transcriber for transcription to another medium or for playback.

14. A DVD containing data for selective playback upon demand or for transcription to another medium and for communication with a player or transcriber, the DVD comprising:

- (a) a start location,
- (b) a stop location, and
- (c) at least one data track between the start location and the stop location,

each data track further comprising a data recording area for executing at least one of recording and reproducing the data, and each track including a start position indicative of a beginning location for the data recording area for that track, the start location precedes the first start position for the first track for at least one of location or time, and the stop location follows the last data recording area for the last track for at least one of location or time, the first start position is indicative of the beginning of the data recording area for a first track and the start position for each subsequent track, if any, is indicative of the beginning of the data recording area for the respective track, such that at least one data track is on the DVD between the start location and the stop location, and

- (d) a gap, adjacent to at least one track, the gap comprising a data recording area for executing at least one of recording and reproducing data, and the gap further comprising data impressed on the DVD and within the gap for defining a concealed track having a hidden recording area for containing concealed data which can be accessed upon demand by the player or transcriber for transcription to another medium or for playback.

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